

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Agriculture in the News

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Report Highlights:

News on developments in agriculture and food in Egypt.

Nile Nuggets

News on Developments in Agriculture and Food in Egypt

July 2014

FERTILIZER PRICES ON THE UP AND UP?: Egypt's Ministry of Industry, Trade and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises requested an increase of up to LE500/MT (US\$69.6/MT) in the price of urea fertilizers to cope with the rising costs of production and the irregular supply of gas to fertilizer plants. Although the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation rejected the idea when first raised, media sources indicate that it might be compelled to approve the increase with the start of the winter planting season in October, as it has already approved an LE10/MT additional subsidy for transporting fertilizers from factories to distribution outlets. According to an official report issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Egypt needs up to 9.7 million metric tons of fertilizers annually, of which 66 percent are used for summer crops and 34 percent for winter crops.

DINA FARMS RETAILS MORE TO THE CITIES: Dina Farms, Egypt's largest private farm operation, is in the process of a successful expansion of its retail outlets with a target of reaching twelve stores by year's end. Dina Farms currently has a total of eight stores nationwide with a monthly turnover of LE12 million (US\$1.67 million). The retail arm of Dina Farms was initially focused on providing the market with fresh products sourced from its farming operations including premium quality dairy and meat products. The plan is to evolve towards larger supermarkets that stock a wide variety of goods in addition to Dina Farms branded products.

TIME FOR KONAFI: Another Ramadan, the Muslim holy month, has come and gone and while its true essence is all about the pursuit of spiritual development; the evening breaking of the fast topped by delicious desserts is a standard feature. For some, Ramadan evokes the memory of Konafa which is the most famous of Ramadan desserts. Konafa is a sweet made from spun shredded wheat and topped with raisins, nuts, and cream. In different variations of this dish, the cream is replaced by mozzarella or by cream cheese and at times cinnamon is added.



The exact ingredients differ depending on the region of the Arab world. The most recent addition this year in Egypt was “Nutella Konafa”, made with the hazelnut chocolate spread of the brand Nutella. Some Konafa makers (in Egypt, he is called a “Kanafany”) prepare Konafa dough in the street. The average price of Konafa dough is LE8/kilogram, or about \$1.10.